

THE SHELTON CHRONICLE

for faculty and staff of Shelton State

SHELTON STATE'S CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER HAS INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

Shelton State Community College's new child development center is state-of-the-art in many ways.

In addition to its brand new facility and top-rated program, the center has also become a showcase of multiculturalism. Of the 45 children currently attending the center, 14 children are German, ranging in ages from two and one-half to five years of age.

Their parents are employees of Mercedes Benz. Another child in the program has one parent from Holland and another one from India.

According to Carolyn Edwards, director of the program, these are not the first children from other countries to enroll in Shelton's child development center. The first child from another country was from Brazil. "We've also had children from Asia, Africa, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. Shelton's center is one of four centers

in Tuscaloosa County to be accredited by the National Association for Education for Young Children," Edwards said. "Two of the accredited centers are at the University of Alabama and the other one is at the Veterans Administration Hospital."

One of the secrets to the success of the center is the low student-to-teacher ratio, according to Edwards. There are four teachers for every infant, six teachers for every toddler, and one teacher for every 11 preschool children. The state requirement is much higher: one teacher for every six infants; one teacher for every 12 toddlers; and one teacher for every 20 preschool children.

Shelton students also help in the center. "This year we have a German girl, Marie Winkler, who is enrolled as a student in our child care program. She is employed as a nanny by one of the German families in town, and she helps with the language problem," Edwards says.

Edwards believes one of the reasons so many families from other countries choose Shelton's child development center is that we 'incorporate their culture into ours.' "We try to make them feel at home. We like them to share special skills, such as cooking and hobbies. Many of them have cooked special German dishes for the children. We really try to encourage them to participate and interact with the other children," Edwards said.

"The language barrier has been the biggest problem. We've learned some of the basic German phrases, and you'd be surprised how quickly the children pick up English. There are some cultural differences as well," Edwards adds. "In America children have to ride in car seats until they are three years old. In Germany a child must be seven or eight years of age before they can ride in a regular seat. Most mothers in Germany don't work, and children don't start school as early as they do in the United States. Preschool in Germany begins when a child is seven or eight years old."

"I believe there are other reasons why these families have chosen Shelton's child development center," Edwards adds. "We look for 'teachable moments.' For example, the children wanted to know about Germany, and they had a hard time understanding 'distance.' We laminated a map of the world and put it on the floor, and talked about the countries. On the map, Germany looked so close to the United States. Some of the children thought they could walk to Germany, and some of the children wanted to ride their bikes. The children who were from Germany knew they had to fly in an airplane because they had flown in a plane."

THE SHELTON CHRONICLE is published twice a month by the Office of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs, Shelton State Community College, 9500 Old Greensboro Road, Tuscaloosa, AL (205) 391-2221.

"Everything in the center is child-oriented," Edwards said. All our activities are geared to things the children are interested in. For example, one day a child found a worm on the playground and thought it was a baby snake. We got a book on worms, and for the next couple of days, we incorporated worms into our curriculum."

"When we were building Shelton's new campus, the children were fascinated by the construction. We spent a month out here while the construction was underway. The children were even given hard hats as keepsakes," Edwards added.

"We have a lot of computers for the children to use. Everything at Shelton is hands-on. It's really surprising how quickly children learn to use the computer. They pick it up from each other," Edwards said.

"A lot of the German families visited other child care centers before they came to Shelton. I think they just felt at home with us. German parents are very close to their children, and they like to share their culture," Edwards said.

GREEN THUMB AT SHELTON

Green Thumb, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, operates the oldest and largest senior community service employment program funded by the U. S. Department of Labor under Title V of the Older Americans Act.

To qualify for the program, a person must be 55 years of age or older and meet income eligibility guidelines. Linda Clark is the employment specialist for the program.

ELECTRIC LIBRARY

The Department of Postsecondary Education has purchased a one-year, 60 license subscription to the Electric Library, an on-line database of research materials. The service provides on-line full text articles for over 500 magazines and journals, 70 newspapers and news wires, and 2000 reference books and literature. Students will access the Electric Library from any PC on any campus which has a valid Internet connection. More information on the Electric Library will come soon.

Homecoming '98

*Homecoming Queen

If you, your club, class, program, or even someone you know, would like to nominate a person for Shelton's Homecoming Queen, applications are available from the counseling center or from the Homecoming table in the atrium. A panel of judges from the community will select the top five candidates. The queen will be elected by popular vote of the student body. The queen will be announced at the bonfire and pep rally scheduled for Monday, October 26, at 7 p.m. All nominations must be returned to the public relations office located on the third floor of the atrium by Friday, October 9. If you have any questions, contact Judy Holland, 2219, or Lyda Black, 2438.

*MONDAY EVENTS: October 26

From 11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. radio station WTXR will be at Shelton with a live remote. The finalists for Homecoming Queen will be announced, and "Homecoming Specials" from the cafeteria will be served.

Evening activities will begin with a Shoot-Around in the gym between

various clubs and organizations from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. the Silver Creek Band will begin to play. Come out and hear the great music. At 7 p.m. the pep rally and bonfire, sponsored by the Shelton State Alumni Association, will climax the day's activities. Dr. Umphrey will announce the 1998 Homecoming Queen and her court. After the ceremony, more fun and food, and music by Silver Creek. Come out and join us for a great night!

*TUESDAY EVENTS: October 27:

At 1 p.m. we'll have jazz in the atrium with the Jazz Band. At 6 p.m. there will be a reception and reunion in the cafeteria for current and former members of the Ambassadors and Phi Theta Kappa members. Following the reception, an international music concert by the music department will be held in the Bean Brown Theatre.

*WEDNESDAY EVENTS, Oct. 28

Children from the Child Development Center will trick-or-treat beginning at 10 a.m. A luncheon at 12:30 p.m. for current members of the faculty and staff as well as college retirees and their spouses is scheduled. Be sure to support Shelton's first Homecoming!

Faces 'n Places

* Congratulations to Deborah Grimes, director of library services, who recently published a professional book entitled **ACADEMIC LIBRARY CENTRALITY: USER SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE ACCESS AND TRADITION**, No. 50 in Publications in Librarianship published by the Association of College and Research Libraries.

*English instructor, Pam Davis, was last month's winner of "Where Were You in the '70s?" The song was "Horse with no Name" by America.